

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A network device managing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus from [[a]] the data processing apparatus;

a searching unit adapted to search network devices in response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

~~held by said holding means;~~

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received by said receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by said searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result by said searching unit with the past device list obtained by said obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify from among the network devices searched by said searching unit the network device not presented in the past device list, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the device list formed by said forming unit to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A network device managing apparatus which, comprises:

a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus from [[a]] the data processing apparatus;

a searching unit adapted to search network devices in response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received by said receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by said searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result by said searching unit with the past device list obtained by said obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify from among the network devices searched by said searching unit the network device of which the state has been changed, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the device list formed by said forming unit to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein [[said]] the device list formed by said forming unit indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by said forming unit includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by said forming unit includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

- a receiving step of receiving a search request of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus from [[a]] the data processing apparatus;
- a searching step of searching network devices in response to the search request received in said receiving step;
- an obtaining step of obtaining a past device list associated with the identification information of a data processing apparatus received in said receiving step, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step;
- a comparing step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the

past device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying from among the network devices searched in said searching step the network device not presented in the past device list, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the device list formed in said forming step to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in said data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the device list formed in said forming step includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving a search request of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus from [[a]] the data processing apparatus;

a searching step of searching network devices in response to the search request received in said receiving step;

an obtaining step of obtaining a past device list associated with the identification information of a data processing apparatus received in said receiving step, the past

device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the past device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying from among the network devices searched in said searching step the network device of which the state has been changed, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the device list formed in said forming step to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein [[said]] the device list formed in said forming step indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in said forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

a receiving step of receiving a search request of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus from [[a]] the data processing apparatus;

a searching step of searching network devices in response to the search request received in said receiving step;

an obtaining step of obtaining a past device list associated with the identification information of a data processing apparatus received in said receiving step, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the past device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying from among the network devices searched in said searching step the network device not presented in the past device list, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the device list formed in said forming step to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

a receiving step of receiving a search request of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus from [[a]] the data processing apparatus;

a searching step of searching network devices in response to the search request received in said receiving step;

an obtaining step of obtaining a past device list associated with the

identification information of a data processing apparatus received in said receiving step, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the past device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying from among the network devices searched in said searching step the network device of which the state has been changed, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the device list formed in said forming step to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a holding unit adapted to hold the past device list, wherein said obtaining unit obtains the past device list held by said holding unit.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a holding unit adapted to hold the past device list,

wherein said obtaining unit obtains the past device list held by said holding unit.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.